

tion, and all complained of greater fatigue from muscular exertion than they had ever before experienced.

The treatment consisted of blood-letting, when that remedy was indicated by a strong, full or oppressed pulse; free doses of calomel in conjunction with camphor and opium, or the sulphate of morphia; very liberal inunction with camphorated mercurial ointment and Cayenne pepper; sinapisms to the epigastric region and extremities; large injections of warm water, with or without brandy or Port wine and laudanum, according to circumstances; dry heat to the extremities by means of bags of heated sand, and cups and blisters to overcome local determinations. Whenever time could be obtained to produce the slightest constitutional effect of mercury, recovery always took place. My intercourse with cholera soon satisfied me that opium, laudanum, and sulphate of morphia in large doses were really much less necessary in the treatment of this disease than I had expected. In most cases the vomiting and purging were not very difficult to overcome, and in many of the very worst instances these discharges were comparatively trifling. A similar disappointment occurred to me in the application of heat. Though it appeared to be very urgently demanded by the symptoms, still the benefit was by no means so great from its use, as from the report of others, I had been led to expect. The vapour of burning alcohol, which I applied in one or two cases, by means of Jennings's apparatus, seemed to me not only not beneficial, but positively injurious, by increasing the distress and restlessness of the patient. The same objection may, perhaps, apply to the very free use of bags filled with highly heated materials—a practice which obtains so generally in the management of the cold surface of cholera patients. As to those cases which present a very doubtful pulse, when the question of blood-letting comes before the practitioner, I would remark, that though some such were saved by that remedy, still in a majority of the patients the pulse was found to sink under the loss of a very small quantity of blood. The premonitory diarrhoea was often difficult of management, and required the free use of the lancet and the subsequent employment of large doses of the sugar of lead in combination with calomel and opium.

Forty-one cases of the epidemic cholera occurred in my practice. Twenty-seven of these belonged to the white population, and fourteen to the black. The former included nineteen male and six female adults, and two male children—the latter four male and nine female adults, and one female child.

Of these forty-one, fifteen patients died, viz. seven male adults and one male child, (whites,) and three male and four female adults, (blacks.)

There were two instances of second attack and one of relapse. These three patients recovered.

While the epidemic prevailed in this place, we had little else than that single disease in its various forms to treat; and now that it has passed over, it has not left behind it even the ordinary, small amount of autumnal disease.

*Newcastle, Delaware, Nov. 8th, 1832.*

*Case of Traumatic Tetanus, successfully treated.* By A. C. BALDWIN, M. D. of Georgia.—On the 7th of January 1833, I was called to visit a negro boy, aged about six years. On examination I found he was labouring under tetanus, and that his body was bent back by the spasmodic contraction of the muscles, forming that variety of the disease called opisthotonos. A splinter in the foot was the only cause to which the origin of the affection could be attributed, and this had been removed on the day preceding my visit. The wound had suppurated, and on being opened, the splinter had been discharged.

Aware of the great torpor of the bowels in tetanic affections, I determined on the exhibition of a cathartic as soon as possible, with the hope of securing all the advantage which could be derived from early purging, before administering the usual remedies employed in such cases. A combination of equal parts of the oil of turpentine and castor oil was accordingly directed, in doses of a table-spoonful frequently repeated. A blister was applied to the spine, and

the foot was enveloped in a lye poultice. On the day following, I found that the blister had drawn well, and that the bowels had been freely evacuated; yet my patient was growing worse, and could swallow only with the greatest difficulty. To relieve pain, and to produce relaxation, I directed a combination of equal parts of laudanum and antimonial wine, to be taken in tea-spoonful doses, every one, two or three hours, as the circumstances of the case might require. The more violent the pain, and the more formidable the spasm, the more frequently was the medicine to be exhibited, and vice versa. To assist in fulfilling the same indications, a poultice of tobacco was prescribed as an application to the blistered surface with the express direction, that it should be instantly removed if any of those untoward symptoms should occur which usually characterize the deleterious operation of this powerful article.

The opium and antimony thus combined, acting conjointly with the poultice of tobacco, seemed to controul the disease, and from that circumstance were continued from day to day; and, with the exception of a little castor oil, occasionally administered, were almost the only remedies employed in the management of the case during the time of its continuance. As soon as one blister would heal, a second was applied on or near the same place, and the raw surface was dressed as before stated. In the preparation of the poultice which was employed, half a pint of boiling water was poured on an ounce of tobacco, and after a strong infusion was formed, sufficient quantity of bread was added to give the proper consistence.

Although the progress of the disease was checked by the opium, antimony, and tobacco, yet entire relief was not immediately obtained, and the affection remained for some weeks stationary, during which time the patient was scarce able to move without renewing or increasing the spasm, and could swallow nothing but liquids, and those with considerable difficulty. It was between the third and fourth week when prospects of a recovery began to make their appearance. From that time the affection very gradually diminished, and he by degrees acquired the power to move, sit, and stand up, although it was six or seven weeks before he was able to walk any of consequence. At this time, rather more than two months since the commencement of the attack, he is walking about perfectly recovered, although considerable stiffness yet remains, and he has not acquired that power over the muscles which he possessed before the commencement of the disease.

Having witnessed the treatment of three or four cases of tetanus, in which opium in large doses was the only remedy employed, every one of which terminated fatally, I took up the idea, that this formidable complaint could not be controlled by this remedy alone, or that if the spasm yielded to its remedial influence, the injurious effects of such large doses of this article on the system, more than counterbalanced the benefit thus acquired, and probably in a majority of cases contributed in bringing about a fatal termination. Influenced by that opinion, I determined in the management of this case, to give it in such doses as I thought would secure its anodyne and antispasmodic effects without producing those injurious consequences to which I have adverted; and at the same time to combine with it such remedies as would probably assist in fulfilling the indications desired. Whether my opinion was right or wrong is left for others to determine. The result, at all events, of the case in which my practical views were enforced, was favourable, and would seem to justify the practice. The union of the opium and antimony seemed to have this good effect; the combination thus formed was less heating than the laudanum would have been if given alone, and by its relaxing influence acted on the skin as a diaphoretic. Neither nausea, nor vomiting, nor any other unpleasant effect resulted from the application of the tobacco. On the contrary, relief was always experienced from its operation, whether employed alone or in combination with the remedies already enumerated.

*St. Clair, Burke County, Georgia, March 11th, 1853.*